

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE KEY WEST BUREAU



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MFL-6025
5 Nov 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--October 1986

I. GENERAL

Although we had no color guard or drum roll to add some flourish to our 14 October formal acceptance of the first of our seven new houses by the sea, the occasion was not without some exciting moments. As it turned out, the contractor initially balked at handing over the keys when the Navy announced it was carrying through with an earlier threat to continue full liquidated damages (\$100 a day) until all the houses are finished. After some hurried phone calls and something about keelhauling coming back into fashion, we had our house. The bureau chief and family promptly celebrated by paying their final bill at the Hibiscus Motel, which bestowed permanent "guesthood" on the entire family--including lifetime pool privileges--for a record-breaking near 4-month stay. By month's end, the contractor had inched closer to finishing the rest of the project, which we now hope will be ready no later than mid-November. In the midst of all this activity, current fisherchild and future monitor [redacted] had another kind of right of passage by catching her first fish--a still unidentified but tasty piece of marine life--off the seawall behind her house.

STAT

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Key West and Panama this month updated their SOP on processing Castro speeches and other major events. The major change switches responsibility to Key West to file all FYI's, out-of-turn excerpts, and processing plans for such speeches and events. Panama and we believe the change will go a long way in consolidating decisionmaking in one bureau.

Fidel continued the fast pace he set in September, attending meeting after meeting and speechifying at every opportunity. In one of his best lines all month, he said after voting in a local election that he had just cast his ballot in the "most democratic elections being held in the world yesterday, today, or tomorrow." He went on later to chide a group of journalists, warning them that he intended to have a few things to say at their upcoming congress. Other developments included Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit and a port call by a Soviet flotilla to Havana. In addition, we had an unusual 1-day visit by Argentine President Alfonsin to Cuba

following a trip to the USSR. The Cuban media also had a field day with the so-called Libyan "disinformation campaign" in the U.S. and the capture of the U.S. mercenary in Nicaragua.

B. Communications

The bureau continued to gather pertinent information to assist Engineering Support Group which is in charge of getting us our new^{un}classified 300 baud line. The new circuit will give us the advantage of bypassing the Navy which has not always been all that reliable in entering our traffic into the Autodin system on a timely basis. Current plans call for an early December switchover date.

Adding to our communications problems was another phone line cut this month, the third time since August that a construction crew has severed Southern Bell's cable (see attached Miami Herald story). As a result, the bureau was down for 9 hours before telephone crews could repair the damage.

Our tempermental BACH has worked well most of the month following open-heart surgery on 3 October by ADD's [redacted] The STAT patient recovered quickly and is doing quite well with a new hard disk to replace the mangled one that was removed.

C. Technical

Headquarters gave us the OK to continue with the Boca Chica remote site, despite Navy plans next spring to let contractors use the same meadow where our antenna is as a construction site. Current plans call for contractors to build asphalt and concrete mixing plants on this meadow where they will also store "mountains" of gravel and sand to be used to resurface the air station's three runways. In the meantime, we continue to wait for our land-use agreement to wind its way through the Navy bureaucracy. As of 21 October, we had been told that the Commander of the Naval Air Force of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet had endorsed our request. The application now must get another endorsement from the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet before going on for a final ruling from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command's Southern Division in Charleston. Looking to the future, the bureau also continued various experiments throughout the month to try to improve reception of Hispaniola from existing antennas on Truman Annex. Despite our own ideas and those of ESG, we continued to have little success in eliminating most of the interference.

Our Hermes Loop Array, which was in such sad condition when it arrived from Bangkok last year that it was dubbed the "Herpes," is now almost as good as new. The bureau's local antenna contractor, Dynalelectron Corporation, has completed most of the work on the array which now seems to be outperforming our other shortwave antennas. A final verdict will be delivered by Radio Broadcast Monitor [redacted] when he returns from holiday in early November. STAT

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Our recruiting efforts took a few new turns this month as we continued to hunt for one Haitian Creole and two Spanish monitors. A former employee of the old Puerto Rico Bureau, [redacted] may turn out to be our on-the-spot lady in Haiti who could monitor the various Port au Prince radio stations on the scene, once we have all the details worked out. The Spanish chase also continues with new leads opening up in Puerto Rico and Miami. Senior monitor and native Puerto Rican [redacted] is working closely over the phone and by mail with the placement officer and the director of the graduate translation program of the University of Puerto Rico. She has also been in contact with the president of the Association of Translators in Puerto Rico. In Miami, we are pursuing students from the Florida International University. The chairman of the school's modern language department earlier in the month enthusiastically responded to a letter from the bureau advertising our openings. He is currently rounding up a group of students we could test at the university.

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IV. VISITORS

ESG's [redacted]

2-3 October.

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V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Key West celebrated Halloween a week early by throwing another of its spectacular Fantasy Fests with nearly everyone (except the bureau chief, of course) either painting their faces or donning masks and costumes ranging from the outrageous (hairy chested and portly gentlemen dressed as ladies) to the ridiculous (dogs with moussed hair dyed pink) to the sublime (the scariest Death imaginable atop stilts swinging a formidable scythe). As the Miami Herald said, some 35,000 revelers crammed onto our island to enjoy the Mardi Gras atmosphere that included deafening whistles for a group of "girls," who--preferring to remain anonymous--"roller danced" provocatively at a street party in front of the pink La Te Da Restaurant. As one woman in the crowd said, "There's just something about men in panty hose."

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[redacted]
Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachment:

Production Report
Nonexpendable Property Report
Communications Outage Article

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureau

Page Denied

NONEXPENDABLE PROPERTY
Monthly Report, Key West Bureau
October 1986

PROPERTY RECEIVED:	1 EACH	Audio Select Assembly, ST Research, Model ST-112, SN 840101.
	2 each	Notch Filter, E-Systems Inc. P/N R462570-1, SN's: 11 and 14.
PROPERTY TRANSFERRED:	1 each	Notch Filter, E-Systems Inc. P/N R465270-1, SN: 05. Unit malfunctions intermittently.
PROPERTY DISPOSED:	None.	

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 118,150

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 27,010

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 507

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	2,575	14,700	21
	MIN	MIN	ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>1,460</u>		
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>1,030</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>36,680</u>	
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>1,230</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>510</u>		
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Belize Times in English			<u>-0-</u>
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CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish	<u>7,470</u>		
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Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish	<u>9,490</u>		
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Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>3,040</u>		
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Havana Radio Periodico Del Aire in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>		
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1986

CUBA

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>1,480</u>
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Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>20,410</u>
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Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>
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Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>9,190</u>
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish	<u>1,670</u>
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Santo Domingo Radio Antillas Network in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>
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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u>820</u>
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JAMAICA

Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>
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Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English	<u>1,000</u>
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Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English	<u>-0-</u>
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MEXICO

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>15,520</u>
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NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>3,680</u>
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THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum International in English	<u>-0-</u>
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SURINAME

Paramaribo International Service in English	<u>3,140</u>
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OTHER SOURCES:

Paris AFP in English	<u>330</u>
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Keys News

Thursday, October 9, 1986

The Miami Herald

Section D

Bell blames contractor for severed cable

By ROSEMARY HAROLD
Herald Staff Writer

The spot where a contractor accidentally cut Key West's buried long-distance telephone cable Tuesday was not marked, construction and telephone officials agreed Wednesday.

Southern Bell sent written notice that the cable was marked, construction overseers said. But a telephone company spokesman said the contractor failed to tell Southern Bell that he would be working north of the Boca Chica Bridge, where the cable was cut.

Southern Bell insists Brewer Construction Co. was at fault and will bill it for

repair costs, said spokesman Bob Self. "This one could be more expensive than the last bill, which was about \$90,000," he said.

Southern Bell workers restored long-distance service around 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Self said. A construction worker cut it six hours earlier while posting road signs along U.S. 1 for the state Department of Transportation.

It was the third time in 2 1/2 months that a construction worker cut the cable. The DOT and Brewer were also at fault for an Aug. 12 severing, Self said. Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority was responsible for cutting the cable July 31.

Mike Hunter, a subcontractor working for Brewer, cut the 2-inch-thick fiber-optics cable, buried about three feet underground, said David Koppel of Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan, an engineering firm overseeing nine DOT projects in the Keys.

Road construction work in the Keys is a problem because nearly all major utilities — electric, gas, water and phone services — install pipes or cables along U.S. 1, said Mickey McCollough, also of Post, Buckley.

Koppel and McCollough said Brewer received a letter from Southern Bell saying the cable had been marked.

Southern Bell usually marks the line with orange spray-paint.

Self said Brewer told telephone officials only that work was being done south of the bridge, where the cable was marked.

Construction company spokesman Walt Brewer Jr. was not in his Fort Lauderdale office Wednesday, a secretary said. Hunter could not be reached for comment.

Southern Bell officials met Wednesday to discuss the problem, Self said.

They are considering setting up some kind of emergency system to provide

minimum service to government offices, hospitals and law enforcement, he said. The emergency system may rely on microwave transmissions.

Before the court-ordered break-up of the Bell System in 1984, long-distance service in the Keys was provided by a combination of microwave service and copper-wire cables, Self said.

The copper-wire cables, usually strung above ground on poles, were replaced because they were old-fashioned and dangerously heavy, he said. Officials feared the poles would topple in hurricane conditions.